



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte  
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath20.  
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22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020,  
Deputy Peadar Tóibín,  
Dail Eireann  
Dublin 2.

**PQ Number: 13944/20**

**To ask the Minister for Health the closures of mental health facilities by county in the past 20 years; and the amount returned from mental health budgets by county to the HSE since 2010.**

Deputy Tóibín,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The HSE, and formerly the health boards, have over the last two decades undertaken a reconfiguration to modernise the planning and delivery of all aspects of mental health services for young people and adults. This has been in line with policies such as Planning for the Future and A Vision for Change. Transformation has, essentially, placed greater focus on developing community based services while also upgrading or replacing acute in-patient facilities. In most if not all cases involving closure of a psychiatric/ mental health facility, mental health care was continued and indeed improved through the introduction of alternative care options. The process of closing old institutions has been underpinned by significant additional investment provided for new developments in mental health, particularly over recent years. The closure of individual facilities in the past was also influenced by factors such as concerns arising from inspection reports, and the need to enhance quality and safety overall in line with evolving standards. Examples of institutions that have been closed in the past, and replaced by alternative facilities or new community care options include:

Closed Centre	New Centre
Grangegorman	Phoenix centre opened 2013
CUH Cork older unit	CUH Cork (replacement with new unit)
UCHG Galway older unit	UCHG Galway (replacement with new unit)  Merlin Park University Hospital, opened in 2010: New Unit
St Lomans, Palmerstown	Child & Adolescent Mental Health In-patient Unit
St. Michael's unit, Clonmel	



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Roslaie unit, Castlerea	Replaced with new unit (new POLL)
St. Brigid's, Ballinasloe	
Drogheda unit	Drogheda (replacement with new unit, 2016)
Sycamore Unit, Connolly Hospital is temporarily closed. It remains on the Register of Approved Centres, but the maximum occupancy of the service has been reduced to zero.	
Blackwater House	Replaced with Blackwater House new
	Department of Psychiatry, Letterkenny University Hospital, opened in 2011
	Wood View, Galway, opened in 2016
	Deer Lodge, Kerry, opened in 2017
	Owenacurra Centre, opened in 2016
	Haywood Lodge, opened in 2012
	Selskar House, Farnogue Residential Healthcare Unit, opened in 2013
	St Aidan's Ward, St Otteran's Hospital, opened 2020
	Le Brun House & Whitethorn House, Vergemount Mental Health Facility, opened 2015
	St Bridget's Ward & St Marie Goretti's Ward, Cluain Lir Care Centre, opened 2012 O'Casey Rooms, Fairview Community Unit, 2012 opened



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It should also be noted that, in respect of the period highlighted by the Deputy, mental health services were not primarily administered on a county basis, but rather at various times on a health board, Local Health Office or Community Health Organisation basis. In this context, the nature or detail of the financial data requested by the Deputy has not been collated as a matter of routine. Notwithstanding operational changes at local level over the years, funding allocated for mental health has remained within the HSE mental health care group. It would not be realistic, due to various factors such as time and staff resources involved, availability of certain records or addressing more immediate service pressures to provide the information sought in this case. If the Deputy wishes to clarify the purpose and context of his enquiry, he is welcome to contact the HSE directly and every effort will be made to assist with this matter

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Ryan".

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Jim Ryan  
Assistant National Director  
Head of Operations  
Mental Health